



# News In Review

A collection of NGO views on the NPT PrepCom 2003

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## Hot Air: The Final Peacemaker

The topic of nuclear energy- referred to by the NPT savvy crew simply as Article IV- is the cause of a visible rift within the NGO community. Some, mostly those planted firmly in the arms control camp, see Article IV and the guarantee of "peaceful" uses of nuclear energy as the viable "carrot" that has curbed the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Others, mostly those who advocate for nothing less than the total nuclear abolition, regard Article IV provisions as a license to deadly uranium mining, a plague on the environment, and as a key to the bomb factory.

From what we can tell by reading some reports, statements, and working papers circulated at this PrepCom, the States Parties themselves are equally divided on this contentious issue.

China, for instance, in its "working paper on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy" (NPT/CONF.2005/PC.II/WP.6) echoes the belief of many when it refers to nuclear energy as a "right" that "will be conducive to the comprehensive realization of the Treaty's objectives and will help promote nuclear disarmament and prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons."

According, however, to the opening statement of the United States, the "country that has been one of the largest beneficiaries of IAEA technical cooperation for peaceful purposes" has in actuality "been conducting an alarming clandestine program to acquire sensitive nuclear capabilities as part of a nuclear weapons program"! If this is true, the "right" that has so easily devolved into a nuclear weapons program certainly does not promote disarmament nor prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons as China and others would have us so readily believe.

Oh, what a dilemma! Will the NGO and States Parties communities be torn apart forevermore? Perhaps the IAEA itself could help us to reconcile the matter. Luckily for us, Mr. Tariq Rauf from the Agency appeared in an open session yesterday, replete with a PowerPoint presentation to supplement the standing exhibition of IAEA technological wonders that remains outside of the Conference Room.

The trumpeters of Article IV were undoubtedly looking to the International Atomic Energy Agency to settle the debate in their favor. After all, the promotion of atomic energy is inextricable to their mandate. No such luck. As it happened, Mr. Rauf's presentation, like much of the IAEA's recent focus, was centered primarily on safeguards, rather than on the promotion of atomic energy, as has so often been the case in recent IAEA presentations.

We must end this quarrel right now, this disagreement that is tearing apart the entire NPT community! Let the IAEA fully dedicate itself to safeguarding nuclear materials as it so longs to do; charge them with carrying out the long overdue fissile material inventory. Let us establish, as its counterpart, an International Sustainable Energy Agency (ISEA) to promote the use of an energy that does not poison indigenous lands or leave a deadly trail of uranium in its transportation wake. Let us heed the suggestion of the NAC to formulate legally binding NSAs to replace the "carrot" of the NPT.

Where should such an ISEA begin? One option was offered right here, at the 2003 PrepCom. Much of this new and exciting alternative energy source- i.e. hot air- is perpetually produced right here in the bowels of Conference Room

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## Jacqueline Cabasso

Western States' Legal Foundation

### 1. What are your hopes or expectations for the Nuclear Non-Proliferation 2003 Preparatory Committee?

This is my 8th NPT session. As usual, I was hoping- in light of the Bush Administration's unprecedented unilateral tearing apart of the framework of security treaties that make up the nuclear nonproliferation regime, not to mention the war on Iraq- that this time the rest of the world would stand up to the US in a meaningful way. In reality, however, I know better, and I expected to be disappointed by the governments. What I didn't expect to find, in the current political climate, was that spirits in the NGO community remain high, creative muices are flowing, and determination to abolish nuclear weapons is stronger than ever. This feeling of international solidarity has refreshed and motivated all of us. We won't give up!!

### 2. What topics do you work on most or find the most interesting in this forum?

My organization closely monitors the US nuclear weapons laboratories. In this forum we focus on exposing the truth about US nuclear weapons and related civilian and military programs and policies. It's always fascinating to mje when delegates seem shocked to learn the facts. For exaample, I brought information to this session about U.S> plans to develop a 75 kiloton Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator- hardly a "mini-nuke."

### 3. What led you to be doing the work that you are doing now?

I'm a life-long peace activist. When I was five years old in kindergarten I remember being so scared by a "duck and

### For Your Information...

*Upon receipt, all public documents circulated at the PrepCom, including the NGO presentations to the delegations, are available at:*

*[www.reachingcriticalwill.org/npt/nptindex.html](http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/npt/nptindex.html)*

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XVIII; Greenpeace demonstrated its effectiveness by using it to power an enormous balloon that floated around the city of Geneva on Monday (see Page 4). Hot air- the energy produced by the act of talking- however unproductive these sessions may prove to be- is a by far more favorable by-product than that of any war, or especially any war that erupts into a nuclear exchange. Let all of us, on either side of the debate, look to hot air as the final peacemaker to settle this rift once and for all.

**Rhianna Tyson  
Reaching Critical Will  
WILPF**

### Correction

Yesterday's front page article mistakenly referred to the discussions that took place as Cluster 2: Regional Issues. In fact, Cluster 2 issues refer to "safeguards", which were not discussed until the afternoon session.

cover" drill that I wet my pants! In high school I learned about ecology and became an environmentalist. This was during the Vietnam War, and I was also active in the anti-war movement. Then I learned about feminism. These three pillars- ecology, nonviolence and feminism- inform my anti-nuclear activism. In 1983 I was arrested in a nonviolent blockade at the Livermore Nuclear Weapons Lab, along with about 1,300 others. Our lawyers argued that we had a right under the Nuremberg Principles to act nonviolently to prevent the commission of grave international offenses, and that the development of nuclear weapons violated international law. One thing led to another and here I am.

## Implement Article VI with JFK's IDO

In 1970 when the NPT became effective it contained, in Article VI, the obligation for 1) ending the nuclear arms race, 2) nuclear disarmament and 3) general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.

In 1986 The United Methodist Council of Bishops addressed disarmament in their Pastoral letter IN DEFENSE OF CREATION — The Nuclear Crisis and a Just Peace. They wrote in defense of creation because the creation itself is under attack. Air and water, trees and fruits and flowers, birds and fish and cattle, all children and youth, women and men live under the darkening shadows of a threatening nuclear winter.

They rejected the use of nuclear weapons and the threat called nuclear deterrence but then added, The rejection of nuclear deterrence, however, does not necessarily mean immediate unilateral disarmament. Those who regard themselves as nuclear pacifists do not hold a fully responsible position if they only say No to nuclear weapons; they must also share in the difficult political task of working out a strategy of phased arms reductions,

They endorsed the third obligation in Article VI with these words, We urge the churches to rediscover the McCloy-Zorin Agreement and to press for government fidelity to it. It was endorsed unanimously by the United Nations General Assembly on December 20, 1961, and has guided UN deliberations on how best to achieve the Agreement's stated goal of general and complete disarmament.

That admonition is still valid today and I urge the states, parties to the NPT to rediscover the McCloy-Zorin Agreement (M/Z) and to adopt it at the 7th NPT Review Conference, as the way to implement Article VI.

You can rediscover the M/Z at [www.nuclearfiles.org/docs/1961/610920-mccloy-zorin.html](http://www.nuclearfiles.org/docs/1961/610920-mccloy-zorin.html)

When President John F. Kennedy (JFK) introduced the M/Z to the UN General Assembly on September 25, 1961 he reflected the principles in M/Z with these words;

The program to be presented to this assembly—for general and complete disarmament under effective international control—moves to bridge the gap between those who insist on a gradual approach and those who talk only of the final and total achievement. It would create machinery to keep the peace as it destroys the machinery of war. It would proceed through balanced and safeguarded stages designed to give no state a military advantage over another. It would place the final responsibility for verification and control where it belongs, not with the big powers alone, not with one's adversary or one's self, but in an international organization within the framework of the United Nations. It would assure that indispensable condition of disarmament—true inspection—and apply it in stages proportionate to the stage of disarmament. It would cover delivery systems as

well as weapons. It would ultimately halt their production as well as their testing, their transfer as well as their possession. It would achieve under the eyes of an international disarmament organization, a steady reduction in force, both nuclear and conventional, until it has abolished all armies and all weapons except those needed for internal order and a new United Nations Peace Force.

JFK was reflecting principle #6 of the M/Z — 6. All disarmament measures should be implemented from beginning to end under such strict and effective international control as would provide firm assurance that all parties are honouring their obligations. During and after the implementation of general and complete disarmament, the most thorough control should be exercised, the nature and extent of such control depending on the requirements for verification of the disarmament measures being carried out in each stage. To implement control over and inspection of disarmament, an International Disarmament Organization including all parties to the agreement should be created within the framework of the United Nations. This International Disarmament Organization and its inspectors should be assured unrestricted access without veto to all places as necessary for the purpose of effective verification.

Today the United Nations inspectors in Iraq are operating with unrestricted access without veto to all places as necessary for the purpose of effective verification but their goal is to verify not only nuclear disarmament but also the general and complete elimination of all weapons of mass destruction.

France, with the support of Russia and China has introduced a resolution in the UN Security Council to impose Robust Monitoring on Iraq. This resolution requires the UN Security Council to strengthen the current UN inspection team by enhancing the quantity and quality of its personnel, together with its financial and technical resources; and to initiate long-term disarmament monitoring and verification in Iraq under maintenance of a credible enforcement threat.

The states parties to the NPT should go beyond this UN Security Council resolution to create JFK's International Disarmament Organization to initiate long-term disarmament monitoring and verification in all states not only Iraq and to sponsor negotiations for the balanced and safeguarded stages of nuclear disarmament, all weapons of mass destruction and general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.

Delegates to the 2nd Prep Com should propose a repeat adoption of the McCloy/Zorin Agreement and creation of JFK's International Disarmament Organization.

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## Who s Who – Diplomat Profile

### Dr. Hussein Ali

#### 3rd Secretary, Permanent Mission of Syrian Arab Republic

**1. What are your hopes or expectations for the 2003 PrepCom? A week into the proceedings, how have they altered?**

My hopes were that the NPT States Parties express their firm commitment to nuclear non-proliferation and to nuclear disarmament through the universal adherence to NPT. Also, we were hoping that all parties to the NPT, particularly the NWS, intensify efforts to ensure the establishment of a NWFZ in the Middle East by exerting pressure on Israel, the only country in the region that possesses nuclear weapons and refuses to join the NPT and refuses to open its nuclear facilities for IAEA inspections. A week into the proceeding, I think that very little has been achieved and some states, key members, continued to be very selective and to have a double standard approach.

**2. What topics do you work on most or find the most interesting in this forum?**

Interesting? It is my first participation in this kind of meeting and I'm learning a lot. All topics are crucial... but nothing is interesting... it's really sad to see that those who want to change things cannot, and those who can do not want.

**3. What led you to be doing the work that you are doing now?**

As a diplomat, I have been posted to the permanent mission of the Syrian Arab Republic in Geneva in September 2002. I'm in charge of the disarmament issue.

Greenpeace balloon flies "Ban the Bomb" message over Geneva,  
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